

Meeting Summary



Southeast Landscape Committee – “Increase Forest Land Goal” Discussion

01/23/03

9am-11:30

Rochester, DNR

Attendees:

Bill Bruins, Charles Schmitt, Doug Rau, Jim Brooks, Katie Fernholz, Larry Gates, Steve Merchant, Tom McMillin, Jeff Gorfine

Staff:

Chad Skally

Topics

Discussion:

- Initial discussion was about the wording of the goal. Everyone agreed adding more detail to the goal was appropriate. The following is draft language that was developed by the group:
 - Increase forest land that is high quality, biologically diverse (e.g. appropriate species on appropriate sites), and is in contiguous areas (e.g. large patches).
- For the purpose of monitoring the goal the group came up with 3% over 5 to 10 years as an initial amount to increase forest land. This is based from information the group had on recent increases in forest land and efforts currently underway to increase forest land.
- The remaining discussion focused on developing strategies to achieve this goal.
 - Education Materials / Research Strategies:
 - Research tax laws from other areas that could increase/protect forest land in southeast MN.
 - Need to show history/success of natural resources management in southeast MN.
 - Increase woodland advisor education to loggers and private landowners.
 - Develop county lists of DNR, private foresters, woodland advisors, and others that landowners can contact to get information on forest land management.
 - Outreach / Technical Assistance Strategies:
 - Focus outreach toward private landowners. Format material for new audiences: non-farmers, non-year-round residents.
 - Key players for outreach include DNR, University of MN Extension, MN Loggers Education Program, 4H, Future Farmers of America, Woodland Advisors/ Committees/ Councils, Loggers, BALM.
 - Have loggers, either before or after their logging operation, reference landowners to DNR, woodland advisors, or private foresters to assist landowners in development of a stewardship plan.
 - Use fliers/mailings to get educational materials out.
 - Set up passive forest demonstration areas near heavy use areas (parking lots, parks) that show various types of sustainable forest management (e.g. direct seeding, intermediate harvest, tree planting, etc.).
 - Field (on-the-ground) Strategies
 - Increase seedling production. Can try to do using basic economics ... increase demand

will increase supply. Get people to look in the long term with tree management. Have landowners do individual mini tree farms using their own mature trees.

- Continue support for cost-share programs.
- Economics/Policy
 - Get forest tax law information out to landowners.
 - Need to look at long-term economic benefits of contiguous forest land.

Conclusions: More education and outreach toward private landowners on forest management is critical.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce meeting minutes.	Chad Skally	2/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create draft landscape committee report with vision, goals, and strategies.	Chad Skally	3/15/03